

# GLENN REAGIN

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IN FLORIDA

## The Herald

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GENERAL OFFICES  
NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

BRANCHES IN ALL THE PRINCIPAL CITIES

THURSDAY, MAR. 6, 1913

We sincerely regret losing from the list of Democratic newspapers that lively and highly interesting paper, the Inverness Chronicle. In its issue of the 28th ult., it says that, if Bryan is appointed secretary of state, it will "renounce allegiance to the party." We believe the Chronicle has spoken in haste and we hope it will reconsider.

The Jasper News has just entered upon the twenty-fourth year of its existence. It is an excellent weekly, edited with marked ability by that veteran Jno. M. Caldwell, and we hope that it and its editor will live and prosper for many years to come.

The Tampa Tribune's Polk county special edition, which appeared Monday, was a splendid exhibition of journalistic enterprise, energy and ability. It represented a great amount of editorial work done skillfully and neatly and put forth in the most attractive typographical style. There seems to be nothing in journalism beyond the Tribune's ability.

The organization of a law and order league in Plant City and another in West Palm Beach would seem to argue that they have some very bad citizens and indifferent law officers in those cities. But we have visited them and walked about in them many times and were neither mobbed nor robbed. On the contrary, we were very courteously treated.

If the Huerta government in Mexico did not plan the murder of Madero and Suarez, they should give a satisfactory explanation of the attempt to transfer the victims at midnight instead of in the day time. The best thing to do for Mexico is to abolish the Monroe doctrine and invite the European powers to take the Mexican nuisance off the hands of the United States.

What's the use of discussing county division and Senator Cooper's attitude thereon with the Arcadia News, when nothing that we could say would change the views of that paper and nothing it could say would change ours? It is impossible for the jury to agree, and the case is, therefore, appealed to the committee on city and county organization, which will meet in Tallahassee next month and render a final decision. Meantime, the News may continue to amuse itself and its readers in trying to explain that the referendum, as it understands it, does not apply to any group of people outside of Arcadia, unless Arcadia is included. According to the News, we should have invited the Arcadia people to vote on the anti-cow referendum of Punta Gorda.

### Is the State Dishonest?

Quite a number of our most respectable newspapers, notably the Times-Union, the Tampa Tribune and the Ocala Banner, have of late been giving much space to a discussion of the Wailes claim, in which they conclude that the State of Florida has robbed Col. Wailes of some \$150,000 and is, therefore, a great rogue.

This is a serious charge, reflecting as it does upon the integrity of the state and more particularly upon the honor of the members of three or four successive legislatures, which passed upon the Wailes claim and virtually rejected it, but allowed Col. Wailes \$25,000 for expenses incurred in Washington.

These legislatures are supposed to have been composed of the ablest and most honorable men of Florida, and surely they must have had some reasons for refusing to pay Col. Wailes the \$165,000 which he claimed as due him for collecting the Indian War Claims. The papers which are attacking honor of the state do not give these reasons and discuss them and try to refute them, which we think it is their duty, as impartial critics, to do. There must be a record at Tallahassee which gives the state's side of the case and it ought to be scrutinized and published before the state is denounced as a thief.

This paper is not familiar with the facts; therefore, it hesitates to discuss the case, but it recollects the following incidents relating to it: After Col. Wailes had collected all the necessary data relating to the Indian War Claim and the facts and figures showing its justice and the amount thereof, he failed to collect the claim, apparently abandoned his efforts to collect it, left Washington and went out west. Then, on June 9th, 1894, Gov. Mitchell virtually revoked the appointment of Col. Wailes and appointed his brother, Hon. W. E. Wailes of Selma, Ala., in his place. It would seem from this that, if the state owes anyone in this connection, it is W. E. Wailes.

It is admitted that Gov. Drew had the authority to appoint Col. S. L. Wailes; therefore, Gov. Mitchell had the authority to revoke the appointment. It is not alleged by any one that Hon. S. E. Wailes did any thing towards collecting the Indian War Claim.

Now comes the conclusion: When the claim was collected and paid into the state treasury, Gov. Jennings took the stump as a candidate for United States senator and stoutly maintained that he, Gov. Jennings himself, had collected the claim; that he went to Washington, got the money and brought it to Tallahassee. At the same time, Senator Taliaferro, who was running against Gov.

Jennings and Mr. Stockton, stated on the stump that credit for collecting the claim was due to the Florida delegation in congress, that our senators and representatives collected it.

From these incidents, it would seem that past three or four legislatures had some reasons for declining to pay Col. Wailes the full amount of his claim. But, in all this, THE HERALD does not wish to be understood as pronouncing against the justice of Col. Wailes' claim. This paper has not all the facts on both sides; and, if it had, we fear it would be an incompetent judge. We, therefore, hope that the legislature which meets next month will appoint a special committee of able and honorable men to make a final investigation of this claim; and, if it is found morally just, even though technically outlawed, let it be paid in full.

This is written not for the purpose of opposing payment of the claim, but to offer something in the nature of a defence of the state against the charge of dishonesty and in the hope that it may bring out additional facts to show that Florida is not such a great rogue as the Times-Union and the Tampa Tribune would have the world believe.

In this paper on Feb. 13th ult., the editor printed a brief editorial review of the biennial report of the State Chemist, R. E. Rose. When the paper reached Tallahassee, some live reporter there appropriated the editorial and sent it as a special to the Times-Union, the Tampa Times and several other newspapers. It appeared in the Arcadia News last week. No credit was given THE HERALD, but that doesn't matter.

The Jasper News expresses the view of this paper very correctly and forcefully when it says: "The exemption of American coastwise shipping from paying tolls for passing through the Panama canal is the rankest kind of Special Privilege and is a tax on the many for the benefit of a few. There is no reason in the world why the masses of the people should be taxed for the benefit of the rich transportation companies of the sea."

It seems that a majority of the newspapers of South Florida are willing for the people of West Florida to have a state of their own. As to a name for the new state, call it Florida and let this southern portion be named South Florida.

### Notice of Publication

To All Whom This May Concern: Notice is hereby given that a bill will be introduced at the coming session of the Legislature of the State of Florida to amend section 21, chapter 5537, Acts of 1905 pertaining to the authorizing and issuing of bonds for the purposes therein mentioned, or for any other purpose as said bill may authorize, not to exceed 20 per cent. of the taxable property, real, personal and mixed, as shown by the tax assessment of the town of Punta Gorda at the time of the issuance of said bonds. ALSO, that section 1002 of the General Revised Statutes of the State of Florida, and all amendatory Acts thereto shall be amended in such a manner as to make the office of Marshal appointative by the Mayor and approved by the Town Council, instead of being elected as now provided by law. CITIZENS

### Notice

Notice is hereby given that after sixty days from the date hereof I intend to introduce a bill in the Legislature of the State of Florida at Tallahassee, asking the division of DeSoto County on the township line dividing townships thirty-eight and thirty-nine, the object and purpose being to make and create a new county out of that territory lying south of said division line in DeSoto county and separate it from that portion lying north thereof. The said bill will contain a clause referring the matter of said division for adoption and approval before it shall become a law, to a vote of the qualified electors residing in said proposed new county.

Dated this 30th day of January, 1913.  
F. M. COOPER,  
Senator for DeSoto and Manatee counties.

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